

Hello, my name is Daniel H. Van Winkle and I reside in Mystic which is part of Stonington, the most easterly town in Connecticut, adjacent to Westerly, Rhode Island. I am the immediate Past President of the Chorus of Westerly, one of the finest choral groups in the Northeast, and much of the time I use Interstate 95 to travel to and from Westerly for meetings and rehearsals. I travel there from one to three times a week. A toll at the border of Rhode Island would create an unnecessary financial burden to me.

I have studied the various proposals for raising revenue for Connecticut's transportation needs and consider tolls at the borders to be one of the worst proposals set forth. It would be completely unfair to residents in, or near border towns of Connecticut who frequently are affiliated with businesses, houses of worship, organizations they support, such as myself, and friends who live on the other side of the border. Furthermore, it conjures up an isolationist viewpoint of who we are in Connecticut. We must be a part of all the United States whether in commerce, such as in gasoline prices, or otherwise, and compete with our neighboring states. If we can't compete, we must fix our problem, not create more problems such as having people move to another state. We must be attractive so that others want to come here, not leave. This statement includes the problem of spending too much money. Connecticut is becoming unaffordable to many, and I know of instances whereby even well-to-do residents are finding Connecticut economically undesirable. There are other much more appealing proposals for raising the needed revenue.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter, and I sincerely hope Connecticut's legislative body will vote against this senseless measure.

Very truly yours,

Daniel H Van Winkle